

CALL FOR PAPERS: *James Baldwin Review*
American Literature Association
36th Annual Conference
May 21-24, 2024

James Baldwin and the Reproduction of Racial Capitalism

Social domination, as exerted and felt through the categories of race, class, sex, and gender, finds itself expressed in and through James Baldwin's work, often unevenly, subject to the peculiarities of his historical moments. Both Baldwin and his interpreters can be seen to elevate one vector of domination in racial capitalist modernity over the others, or forget one at the others' expense, obscuring our vision of such domination and our capacities for struggling against it.

As such struggles within the broader struggle for a liberated society continue today, and as we continue to turn to Baldwin for something like guidance, it may be useful to renew our critique of the relation of those categories that keep us separate and unfree.

We are looking for papers that develop sustained argumentative analysis of the problematic entwinement of race, class, sexuality, and gender in the works of James Baldwin. **We are especially interested in papers that place Baldwin's work within a broader historical argument, or that consider literary form as the basis for a comparison of Baldwin's work with the work of others.** We are open to novel reconsiderations of familiar comparisons such as those above, while unexplored juxtapositions, such as putting Baldwin in conversation with writers from the global south, would be particularly welcome.

Possible approaches include:

- Historicizing the Baldwin revival
- Marxist critiques of Baldwin
- Feminist critiques of Baldwin
- The Baldwin essay as form
- Periodizing racial capitalism and its literary forms
- Baldwin and Black Marxism
- Queer critique of Baldwin and the Black Panther revival
- Baldwin and the limits of anti-racism
- Baldwin and the limits of class essentialism
- The Sixties and the realist novel
- New Journalism and Baldwin's essays

Please send abstracts (250 words MAX) to Kyle Proehl at kylep@wustl.edu. The deadline for abstract submissions is January 15, 2025. All contributions will be considered for publication in a forthcoming special issue of *James Baldwin Review*.